1 **Messaging System**

2

3 The invention relates to the general field of sending

4 messages from one person to another, and more

5 specifically to messaging methodoloy and hardware for use

6 as an introduction/dating system. In particular, the

7 invention enables a person to send a message to another

8 person, without having to know specifically who they are.

9

10 **Background of the invention**

11

12 At the present time several magazines run a dating column

13 where a person may leave a message for an unknown person

14 whom they have seen or encountered, in the hope that said

15 person will see the message and respond to them. This

16 system is unsatisfactory because of the low probability

17 that the person to whom they wish to send the message

18 would see the message, the low probability that they

19 would be able to recognise that it was themselves for

20 whom it was intended and the fact that because they would

21 not see it until some time after the chance meeting, they

22 are less likely to want to respond.

23

1   The aim of the present invention is to allow a person to
2   send a message to a stranger whom they encounter.
3   Typically, they will send an e-mail or short text message
4   from their own mobile telephone.
5
6   The invention aims to enable that message to reach the
7   intended person and preferably to allow them to respond
8   in a fun, safe and convenient fashion.
9

10   **Brief summary of the invention**
11
12   The invention provides a new system, allowing people to
13   send messages to other people who they have met in a
14   chance encounter and whose conventional contact details
15   (name, address, phone number, e-mail address etc.) they
16   do not have.
17
18   According to the present invention there is provided a
19   message pushing system for sending messages to
20   recipients, the system comprising a database of details
21   of individual potential recipients, telecommunications
22   links for communicating with message sending and message
23   receiving devices, the message pushing system being
24   adapted to receive a message from a message sending
25   means, the message comprising details of the intended
26   recipient of the message, wherein the message pushing
27   system compares the details of the intended recipient of
28   the message with the database of potential recipient's
29   details thereby establishing one or more members who may
30   be the intended recipient, the message pushing system
31   being adapted to transmit said message to the message
32   receiving means of the one or more members who may be the
33   intended recipient.

1

2 Preferably, the details of individual potential

3 recipients include details of the individual's physical

4 appearance. The details may be selected from a list

5 comprising their sex, their hair length and colour, their

6 eye colour, their age, their skin colour, their height,

7 and their clothing.

8

9 Preferably, the database will also include the e-mail

10 address, mobile telephone number, name, address or other

11 contact details of individual potential recipients.

12

13 Preferably also, the database will also include locations

14 where the potential recipient may be. The database may

15 also contain the current location of the recipient. The

16 database may also maintain a list of previous locations.

17

18 Preferably also, the message pushing system is adapted to

19 allow potential recipients to update their details. This

20 may be done automatically. Typically, potential

21 recipients will update their details using their message

22 sending means.

23

24 Preferably, the message pushing system allow messages to

25 be delivered to recipients without the sender of the

26 message knowing who the recipient is.

27

28 Typically, the comparison between the details of the

29 potential recipient and member's details on the database

30 does not need to be exact.

31

1   The database may also include information about how close
2   a match between details is required for that message to
3   be sent to that potential recipient.
4
5   The message sending means and message receiving means may
6   be the same devices.
7
8   Typically, the message sending means and message
9   receiving means will be mobile telephones using WAP or I-
10   MODE.
11
12   The telecommunications links may comprise the internet.
13
14   The message may comprise one of an e-mail, a text
15   message, a visual message or a multi-media message.
16
17   When transmitting the message to the message receiving
18   means, the message pushing system may or may not send the
19   description of the intended recipient of the message
20   along with the rest of the message.
21
22   The database may be a relational database.
23
24   The message may be transmitted to the recipient only on
25   request from the recipient. A web site may be used to
26   display the message.
27
28   According to the second aspect of the present invention
29   there is provided a messaging system comprising a message
30   pushing system according to the first aspect of the
31   present invention and a plurality of message sending and
32   message receiving means, adapted to send messages to and
33   receive message from the message pushing system.

1

2 According to a third aspect of the present invention

3 there is provided a method of transmitting a message to

4 one or more recipients, the method comprising the steps

5 of:

6   (a) creating a database of details of the appearance

7   and location of individual potential recipients for

8   messages;

9   (b) receiving messages including details of the

10   appearance and location of the intended recipient

11   for a message;

12   (c) comparing the details of the appearance and

13   location of the intended recipient with the details

14   stored in the database, thereby identifying one or

15   more possible intended recipients.

16

17 Preferably, the method further comprises the step of

18 sending the message to message receiving means belonging

19 to the possible intended recipients.

20

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22 recipients include details of the individual's physical

23 appearance. The details may be selected from a list

24 comprising their sex, their hair length and colour, their

25 eye colour, their age, their skin colour, their height,

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23 The message sending means and message receiving means may
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26 Typically, the message sending means and message
27 receiving means will be mobile telephones using WAP or I-
28 MODE.
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30 The telecommunications links may comprise the internet.
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32 The message may comprise one of an e-mail, a text
33 message, a visual message or a multi-media message.

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4 description of the intended recipient of the message
5 along with the rest of the message.

6

7 The database may be a relational database.

8

9 **Brief description of the several views of the drawings**

10

11 The present invention will be illustrated with reference
12 to the following Figures in which:

13

14   Figure 1 which shows a block diagram of components
15   of the message pushing system; and

16

17   Figure 2 shows a flow chart of the message pushing
18   system.

19

20 **Detailed description of the invention**

21

22 The system shown in Figure 1 comprises a central message
23 pushing system 1 having a database 2 of personal details.
24 Members of the service would supply the following types
25 of information, although this list is provided purely by
26 way of example and additional information might be added:

27

28 • Name

29 • E-Mail Address

30 • Mobile phone number (for SMS messages)

31 • Description Details:

32

33   ➢ Sex - Male/Female

1 ❯ Hair Colour - Dark, Red, Fair, etc

2 ❯ Skin Colour - Dark, Fair

3 ❯ Length of Hair - Short, Long

4 ❯ Eye Colour

5 ❯ Age

6 ❯ Height

7 ❯ Any other physical attribute

8 ❯ Clothing details

9

10 • User's locale (the city the user lives in)

11 • Favourite locations (a list of bars, nightclubs, etc.,

12 that the person frequents)

13 • User's current location (as set by the user)

14

15 The messaging system can then use this database to

16 identify recipients for messages. An example of how the

17 system would be used is as follows.

18

19 For example, a man in a nightclub could send a message to

20 the message pushing system, using their WAP enabled

21 mobile telephone, intended for a particular women he has

22 seen standing at the bar. The sender has their own

23 mobile communication device 3 and the system enables them

24 to send a message to a recipient having a mobile

25 communication device 4 via telecommunications links 5.

26 Recipients need to be members of the service in order to

27 have their details stored on the database 2. The central

28 message pushing system has access to telecommunications

29 links, the internet or other communication means for

30 communicating with mobile communication devices 3,4.

31

32 The sender begins by composing their message, which might

33 be a text message, an e-mail or multi-media message

1 including sound or potentially even video. This message
2 is then sent to the central message pushing system using
3 their communications device. It will be clear to one
4 skilled in the art that many types of communications
5 device could be used, particularly WAP or I-MODE mobile
6 telephones. The communications devices 3,4 need merely
7 to be message sending means and message receiving means
8 respectively. Mobile telephone device able to function
9 as both message sending means and message receiving means
10 are preferred..
11
12 As well as the message to be sent, the sender would then
13 prepare a description of the person and location and time
14 at which they have seen them, for example: the town, the
15 name of the nightclub, a description, e.g., "tall woman,
16 blond, wearing a red dress" and a time when the intended
17 recipient was seen, which may be a particular day or more
18 specific time.
19
20 This sender's message is then transmitted by known
21 technology to the message pushing system. The message
22 pushing system then interrogates the database to
23 establish one, or typically several, potential recipients
24 for the message. The message supplied by the user can
25 then be transmitted directly to mobile telecommunications
26 units owned by the recipient.
27
28 In order to establish which potential recipient may have
29 been intended the system will take into account not just
30 their physical appearance but also the location where
31 they were seen and, usually, the time at which they were
32 seen, comparing this with potential recipient's
33 descriptions and information about their location or

1 possible location. Only some descriptive terms need to
2 match and appropriate database interrogation and data
3 comparison techniques are apparent to one skilled in the
4 art.

5

6 When members of the service set their own personal
7 details, they will indicate how close a match they want
8 before a message is transmitted to them. Some people
9 might like to receive a lot of messages, only a fraction
10 of which might be intended for them. Others would only
11 wish to receive a message only if it was very likely
12 intended for them.

13

14 Messages might be sent directly to recipients,
15 alternatively a recipient might simply be informed that
16 there is a message waiting for them at a location from it
17 can be downloaded when they wish, for example a website.
18 Alternatively, the recipient might have to check a
19 website to receive any messages. In the preferred
20 embodiment, they will be notified immediately by their
21 preferred communication method. There is no reason why
22 user's could not send and receive messages from fixed
23 terminals but mobile telecommunications devices are
24 preferred.

25

26 Further information can be provided by members to help
27 people identify them. Importantly, the database of
28 member details 2 can be updated on demand by members, for
29 example the person might supply information as to where
30 they are going on that evening, which clubs, etc., so as
31 to improve the chances of a match. They might also
32 supply details of the clothing they are wearing that
33 particular evening or even inform the database they have

1 moved venues. In a further embodiment, it is envisaged
2 that with the advent of mobile telephone positioning
3 technology, such as mobile telephones containing global
4 positioning system units or other mobile telephone
5 locating technologies, it may be possible for member's
6 mobile telephones to automatically update their current
7 and historic location details on the central database.
8

9 The facility by which the database can be rapidly and ,
10 dynamically updated by members substantially increases
11 the probability of successfully sending the message to
12 the right person.
13

14 Once they have received the message, the recipient can,
15 if they wish, then reply to the sender, sending their own
16 message to them. The message pushing system may allocate
17 an alias to each sender or each sending event, enabling
18 messages to be returned to the correct sender.
19

20 The simplest type of message would be merely a very
21 general statement of where the person had been seen, for
22 example, a city and details of a particular venue, such
23 as a nightclub. In another embodiment, users might
24 supply a more detailed description, including ideas of
25 hair colour, what the person was wearing, their height
26 and other distinguishing features, in order to gain a
27 more accurate match.
28

29 Typically the above details will be stored in a
30 relational database, however any other type of database
31 known to the art, such as a object orientated database or
32 a file, could be used.
33

1   Figure 2 is a flow diagram illustrating the basic

2   procedure for determining recipients for the messages. A

3   sender beings by posting a message to the message pushing

4   system, including location and description information as

5   discussed above. The database then is interrogated for

6   user profiles matching the location and description

7   included with a message. If appropriate records are

8   found, the system sequentially identifies user's contact

9   details and instigates sending the message on to the user

10 or users identified.

11

12 It will be seen from the above description that this

13 system provides an highly innovative method of messaging.

14 A method is provided for people to send messages to

15 others whom they come across in a fun, convenient and

16 anonymous way.

17

18 Revenues could be generated by asking members to pay a

19 subscription, which is the preferred method.

20 Alternatively, other e-commerce techniques, such as pay-

21 per-message or a linking message sending/receiving to the

22 receipt of advertising could also be used to generate

23 revenue.

24

25 As well as the application described above, the

26 underlying technology and method may be used to send

27 messages to unknown recipients in other circumstances,

28 for example, to road user's by using a description of

29 their vehicle.

30

31 Further improvements and modifications may be made within

32 the scope of the invention herein disclosed.